

Message

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Sent: 11/1/2018 6:16:51 PM
To: Weekly Report Group [Weekly_Report_Group@epa.gov]
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Subject: ORD Weekly Report November 1
Attachments: ORD Weekly Update November 1.docx

Administrator,

On November 7, Chris Robbins and I will meet with David Paylor, Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) Board President and VA DEQ Director, and Carolyn Hanson, Acting ECOS Executive Director, to plan for our FY19 state partnership work. Topics will include developing a common framework for responding to emerging contaminants and EPA research priorities to address state needs. ORD is looking forward to hosting Vaughn Noga in RTP next week.

Also next week, ORD will participate in the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) 39th Annual Meeting by making more than 40 presentations, providing demonstrations of online tools, and promoting research at the ORD exhibit booth. SETAC is a professional society comprised of individuals and institutions engaged in: the study, analysis, solutions for environmental problems, and the management and regulation of natural resources.

Hot issues

PFAS Chemical Testing

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Region 5 request for candidate communities for Pb effort

On October 25, Region 5 asked ORD to assist with identifying potential lead (Pb) focus communities in Ohio based on available data. This is part of EPA Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization Council's focus on advancing the use of community-driven solutions across the Agency to achieve tangible results in communities. ORD developed a set of candidate communities by using the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, EJSCREEN, including an EJSCREEN index, blood lead level data, and previously modeled data.

State and Technical Support: Discussion on lead sampling in schools, November 1

At the request of OW, ORD is meeting via conference call with the Washington State Department of Health to discuss sampling for lead in schools. Based on information provided in the EPA 3Ts Toolkit, a school building located the State of Washington replaced faucets and fixtures after observing high lead levels in water samples. Following replacement of the faucets, they resampled and continued to see elevated lead levels in the water. ORD will be answering technical questions from the health department.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control Features CompTox Chemicals Dashboard

CalSAFER, the information center for California's regulatory activities under the Safer Consumer Products Program (SCP), now includes a link to the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard. SCP works to identify products that contain potentially harmful chemicals and find safer alternatives. The CompTox Chemicals Dashboard is a publicly available one-stop-shop for chemistry, toxicity and exposure information for over 760,000 chemicals. More information about the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard is available [here](#).

Publication on background soil PFAS loads

Science of the Total Environment recently made available online Determining global background soil PFAS loads and the fluorotelomer-based polymer degradation rates that can account for these loads. Fluorotelomer-based polymers (FTP) are manufactured chemicals used in a wide array of industrial and commercial applications such as food packaging, carpeting, upholstery and textiles. There has been some debate among scientists about how quickly FTPs break down and degrade. Early studies indicated that these substances' half-lives are over 1,000 years, while others suggest their half-lives are on the order of decades. This is an important question because FTPs can break down into more toxic per- and polyfluorinated alkylated substances (PFAS). The authors looked at data from one of their earlier papers to estimate the global background concentrations and loads of PFAS in soils. The estimates demonstrate that the Earth's surface soils are a major reservoir of PFAS. These results support the assertion that FTPs have half-lives on the decade scale, consistent with what the authors reported in earlier papers based on lab experiments, rather than the millennial scale contended by others.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events

Public Health Partnerships and APHA Award

On November 12, ORD's Wayne Cascio will receive the Homer N. Calver Award at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in San Diego, in recognition of his work as a cardiologist, researcher, and public health advocate, and particularly for his role in leading EPA's work to focus global attention on the link between air pollution and heart disease. This award from the Environmental Health Section of APHA is important recognition of the impact EPA's work has had to build federal and stakeholder partnerships to communicate environmental health risk to a wide range of audiences, including health care providers, patients, and federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental organizations.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

The EPA SBIR Program is making 17 Phase I awards to 16 small businesses to develop their novel technologies in the areas of treatment of PFAS in drinking water, novel materials for water pipes, detection and remediation of PFAS in contaminated sites, decontamination for homeland security applications, detection and mitigation of leaks from oil and gas operations, greener plastics and sustainable construction materials. Phase I awards are for "proof of concept" and recipients receive up to \$100,000 for 6 months. These companies are then eligible to compete for Phase II awards of up to \$300,000 to further develop and commercialize their technologies.

ORD and NEMA to meet to discuss emergency management

Next week ORD is meeting with the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) to provide an introduction to ORD and our homeland security research program. This initial meeting provides an opportunity for these two organizations to determine optimal alignment and collaboration that could lead to future engagements. NEMA serves state and territory emergency management directors and their staff by providing information that is most relevant to them in successfully meeting their mission.